

Local Matters

Not the least agreeable thought, growing out of a view of the condition and prospects of Columbia County, is the small amount of litigation with which our courts are troubled. The grinding distress of 1839--'40 and '41, fell much more lightly upon this than many of the neighboring counties, inasmuch as our people were not so generally and so heavily in debt as those of contiguous jurisdictions. As a consequence, litigation then and thenceforth, has been limited among us. Why is it so? We answer, because our citizens have gone upon the democratic rule of adjusting false and bloated credit, and have not been ridded to destruction with speculators and corporations. Business has been regular and *individuals* have done it. Trade has been conducted with some degree of honesty, & has not generally made a matter of gambling. Our people have been satisfied to make money by *earning* it, and need it prudently when acquired. They give annually at the ballot-box a tremendous condemnation upon modern whig schemes of making money without honest labor—they have persevered with unshaken fidelity to set upon the doctrines of Jefferson and Jackson—and their prosperity has therefore been regular and increasing. There are only *three* business corporations, we believe, in the County, one of these blew up a few years ago, along with the Girard and U. State Bank—and is for the present, quite *hors de combat*. We mean the *Cattawissa* & Railroad Co. We understand that there are attempts making to resuscitate it, and as a great part of the work upon the roads is already done, and the growing necessities of this region demand and justify another chain of connection with Philadelphia and the seaboard, the project is defensible and feasible. For the present, however, this corporation is doing nothing. A second incorporation, is the Iron Company at Danville. This was *not* created by a special act of Assembly, but was organized under the provisions of the general law of 1836. It is a gigantic and growing one, overshadowing the original town of Danville, by its improvements and its power, shaping if it please the policy of Mahoning township and commanding the decision of its ballot-box. In a conflict of interest between it and the town, it has the power to crush you, and its wealth must in any organized struggle predominate. We speak not here to condemn—we are merely jolting down the *fact* of its position and its power. The third business incorporation in our County the Bloomsburg R. R. Iron Company, was created, we think, by special act of Assembly in 1835—the year when Thaddeus Stevens was commander in chief in the Legislature, and Banks and all that sort of thing, were the order of the day. This company has only begun operations a year or so, and is now commencing to prosper vigorously. It owns an immense quantity of land in this vicinity, and the entire water power of Fishing Creek for three miles! The one furnace now in operation produces over 100 tons of No. 1 iron a week, and a second one is nearly ready for blowing in. And then a lateral railroad from the works to the canal and a rolling mill on the Robison property, are confident projects for the future. May we not impute immense power and wealth to this association hereafter? We are happy to see enterprise putting forth its energies, to have the resources of the county developed, but cannot think this done mainly by individuals? Enterprise too gigantic for individual effort, nor invincible corporate strength, and what was too weighty an undertaking for one man because an easy operation for twenty. But is it a policy,—is there any necessity or sound reason, for increasing the number of business incorporations, for any kind or for any purpose, in the county of Columbia? Mr. McDowell Mr. Kalkreuth, Mr. Woods and others, being upon their own hook, appear to be going on swimmingly on the iron business. They ask no special legislation to help them make money, and their prosperity demonstrates the fact that corporations are *not* necessary to develop the wealth of the county in that branch of its industry—the manufacturing of iron. And any other industrial persons. Individual capital, enterprise and skill, are sufficient in all, and though we recognize uncomplainingly its resistance, and wish well to the prosperity of our incorporated companies, we do not strenuously object to any increase in the number. Two individuals do the best business, and credit will not be misused, and there will be no monopoly of wealth and no dangerous concentration of power, as such a case, necessarily will concentrate persons and votes, and the influence will

riches among our citizens will be with the mass and not with a few; convulsions in currency and trade will not crush nor impoverish us and poison our quiet.

The Associate Judges of this county have been peculiarly fortunate so far in their official intercourse with their fellow citizens. Perfectly honest and pure in character, and intelligent and gentlemanly in the discharge of their public duties, they are calculated to win the respect and friendship of all with whom they come in contact. May they continue to gain the good opinion of the public, and by a continuing line of faithful and impartial conduct, keep the character of our courts elevated and respected hereafter.

The Rail Road Mania

We see, by our city exchanges, that the late news from England indicates a terrible revolution in rail road operations, somewhat resembling the crash of the South Sea Bubble. No doubt wide spread ruin and suffering will always follow on the heels of speculation. It has ever been so, in the old world and in the new; and so will it always continue and every additional instance is ripe with instruction and warning to us, if we will only profit thereby. Law's Paper schemes in France—the South Sea Bubble and the recent Rail Road speculation in England—and the explosion of Banks and crash of bloated credit in the United States, are prominent illustrations of a great political truth, too little recognized and too often forgotten, to wit, *that artificial stimulants to business and to trade, are ever unhealthy in their consequences. We fear that our people, (we speak generally) will rush too rapidly into certain branches of industry, and that speculation will come to debauch business among us.* Special legislation can do invaluable mischief by encouraging and investing this state of things, but we rest with considerable confidence upon a Democratic majority in our national and state legislatures to check this latter evil, especially as we have tried & true men in the Executive at Washington & Harrisburg, to co-operate with them, "in every good word and work."

THE RESULT IN NEW YORK.

The returns from the different counties in the state, show that the democrats are again triumphant. A larger number of democrats have been returned to the House than last year, but owing to the disaffection in our ranks, a less number of Senators. We have lost the Tenth and Fifth districts, due through the Anti-Renters; and the other by the means of a faction, headed by S. Seymour of Onondaga conservative. The same interest opposed the democratic Senators in the Fourth and Seventh, but without the desired effect. That faction has now shown its hand and the democracy know what reliance to place upon it for the future.

The Senate stands 25 democrats to 7 federalists, and the House will probably stand 72 democrats to 48 federalists and 2 anti-renters.—*Democrat Gazette.*

DEFAULTERS.

A correspondent of the Pennsylvania, writing from this place, remarks as follows: "The Auditor General and State Treasurer have brought nearly 200 suits against defaulters and their sureties, in the Dauphin Common Pleas, as they were authorized to do by an act passed at the last session of the Legislature. The number is large, but I understand there are more yet to be brought which will be done in due time. These officers deserve great credit in this matter, it being a large amount into the treasury of the State. Col. Snowden says that he will be abundantly able to meet the interest that shall fall due on the 1st of February, which is truly gratifying.

MEXICO.

A correspondent of the N. O. Picayune, writing from Pensacola, under the Nov. 24 1845, says: "It is now well understood that Mexico has consented to settle her differences with the United States by negotiation, and is very happy to be permitted to do so."

RHODE ISLAND.

The law and order party of Rhode Island have nominated Bayne Dimon for Governor, P. Hazard for Lieutenant Governor, and Henry Bowen for Secretary of State. The party which called itself the liberation party last year, and which was composed of whigs and democrats, have re-nominated Glas, Jackson for their Governor,

CANADA RAILWAYS—COMMERCIAL INFLUENCES.

There is a great feeling in the Canada in favor of railways. We hear of new lines, main trunks, and branches with almost the fever which now rages in England. The Canadians do not expect to carry any of their roads through without the liberal aid of English capital, but the mania rises so high in England, there is no telling whether they can afford to send any capital out of the kingdom. The number of railways now under vigorous construction in Great Britain, will take at least \$150,000,000, which is probably all the surplus, capitalists have to spare.

The great Canada routes are—First, the Toronto and Port Saratia, on Lake Huron; Second, the Niagara and Windsor railway, which connects Buffalo and Detroit; Third, the Montreal and Portland line; in Nova Scotia; all of which could be built, with a heavy rail, for \$20,000,000. As yet no ground is broken on any of them. The Port Saratia is said to be all subscribed by responsible men, but in the present excitement of the London market, there is no tell what turn things may take. The Montreal and Portland was said to be *bona fide* subscribed, but it now turns out that the subscribers are mere men of straw & the commissioners have opened books again.

If the Canadians succeed in constructing their proposed railways, the commercial and political results will inevitably be to bind Canada to the United States. No power on earth can prevent it. It will do more to prepare Canada for annexation to the U. S., than the raising of twenty armies for its subjugation. If the Portland or Boston and Montreal should be constructed, it is clear that those Atlantic cities would be the depots of Canada produce.

The Toronto and Port Saratia, and the Niagara and Detroit roads would unquestionably draw the tide of western travel through the Canada. A commodity of interest must grow up. This would be unavoidable. The influence of the constant travelling might be slow, but it would be sure. It would gradually *Americanize* the population of the Canada, and thus draw together the two countries in the friendly bonds of annexation.

In this light, we have regarded the construction of the proposed railways in the Canada, radiating towards the American States as matters of far reach and consequence, as tending to the seeds of that false identity of interest, sympathy and feeling, which alone can render the annexation of Canada desirable. These changes would be produced slowly, and therefore the better, for here, there would be no more going backward than to permit the present Texans that their allegiance was due to the government of Mexico.

HORRIBLE OCCURRENCE.

A correspondent at Franklin, Ind., of the Indianapolis State Sentinel, relates the following:

"On the morning of the 6th Inst., at half past 4 o'clock, the steam of fire-rail through our village. A first but a few voices cried the alarm, but soon every street school with their young people, were on the ground. The county jail was on fire; a wooden building which stood in the Northwest corner of the public square. I contemplated one prisoner who was indicted and tried at the last term of Court for petty larceny, found guilty by the jury but the Judge believing the evidence against him insufficient to convict him, set aside the verdict and was bound over for his appearance at the next Court. He was a boy 18, dark, reckless and unprincipled. He had broken out of several jails before his imprisonment in this, and had burned out of this once and escaped, but returning with a quantity of stolen property he was again confined. He was put in the dungeon. His object, probably was to burn the lock of the trap door, force it, and make his escape. Doubtless while engaged in this he got beyond his reach, rushed into the upper part of the building, and was bursting from the roof when the first cry of fire was heard. The first person who arrived at the spot could hear a sound from within, and all stood unconcerned spectators whilst the flames rolled on. It was a point upon which many opinions were offered whether he had escaped or whether he was consumed by the fire. The day about 10 o'clock a search was made after deadening the coils in different parts of the room, floor, without finding any trace of his remains. The people were leaving the spot with the opinion that he had escaped, but some were searching for the remains of his body a few human bones were found upon it, whilst his crissed shoes and other clothing were discovered upon it, also his was burned. No one doubts it."

The Mormons of Nauvoo oppose the further introduction of strangers into that city. They wish to be immune, and in their arrangements to leave for California.

ROMANTIC.

Lowell has been the scene of a certain bit of romance, which has been the progress there. A young South Carolina accomplished traveller, wealthy and gallant while on a visit to Yankee land, took his course to Lowell, a work or 2 ago, to see the wonders of that wonderful town. He was an anti-tariff man, it is said, when he went, but after, the great system of home industry, and the thousand spindles, the fast accumulating fabrics, the vast machinery, and especially by the array of neat, trim, pretty female operatives, were too much for his first narrow notions, and he came out a warm zealous tariff man. He saw there a handsome damsel; Cupid did his work, and the gallant gentleman wisely resolved to engage matrimony upon his new idea of national policy. In this he was perfectly serious, and the result is pronounced to have been, in every way, propitious. The fair New Englander is said to be a rich prize, in all moral and personal charms, and the chivalrous Southerner is every way worthy of winning and wearing such a gem.

THE ARMY IN TEXAS.

More of the Louisiana volunteers have returned to New Orleans. A communication is published in the Union from Gen. Towson, relative to the charge that the troops in Texas have not been paid for six months. He says this remark is true, only so far as it relates to company E, 3d artillery, commanded by Lieutenant Bragg—one company out of seventy-six, or 48 individuals out of 3,789. That they missed the day by arriving after it was due. The six months' pay was not due to the company until the 31st of October, and the day following paymasters were at Camp Christ with ample funds to pay the whole army.

EMIGRANTS TO TEXAS.

A large number of families, says the St. Louis Reporter, are now emigrating from Illinois and Missouri to Texas. One hundred and fifty wagons passed along the Springfield (Mo.) road on their way to Texas about a week ago.

The Washington Union also says: "We have seen a letter from Bremen of the 15th ult., which states that the rush of emigration will be very great from there to Texas next year. Already the excitement has commenced. Numerous letters arrive here daily from the interior making inquiries in regard to the country; all of which receive prompt and encouraging answers. Already 3 vessels have sailed direct for Texas with emigrants, and there will have left Bremen this year, at the close of the season, to the United States, 40,000, and already about 30,000."

BURIED ALIVE.

The *Elizabeth* Advertiser states that a family, with whom the editor is intimate, desired his attention at the removal of the remains of one of its deceased members. Prompted by curiosity, the lid of the coffin was removed, when, to the utter astonishment of all present, the corpse was found with its face downwards, and in the manner, indicating a complete change in the position of the body! Added to this, as far as the hands could have reached, the lining of the coffin was torn and wound in a knot, and a considerable quantity of hair was drawn at the feet. All these circumstances, together with the sudden and singular manner of (supposed) demise, left scarcely a shadow of doubt that there was another instance of a too precipitate haste in consigning to the grave the body of those supposed to be dead.

SCHOOLMASTERS.

Gov. Sumner, in early life, was a Schoolmaster, and therefore a number of persons yet living in Montgomery County, whose young minds he taught to shoot. His Secretary of State, Jesse Miller Esq., was also, a Schoolmaster when a young man. The interest felt by these distinguished gentlemen in the prosperity and advancement of our Common Schools, need not, therefore, excite surprise. It is part of their nature to favour the education of the youth of our State. The disposition was in them when young, and it has grown with their growth, and strengthened with their strength.

THE STRIPPED PIG OUTDORE.

A strange lately obtained a loan of a hundred dollars from one of the principal merchants, securing repayment by the deposit of a cask of brandy. He sent his way.—On a full examination, says the *Chronicle*, it was found that a copper can, which contained a small quantity of brandy, had been firmly fitted around the bung-hole, and all besides was water!

WON'T GO TO CALIFORNIA.

Harris, the widow of the Mexican Captain, Joe Harris, has a large estate in and about Nauvoo, and is determined to stay and take care of it for her rest and children. Some say that she claims the temple.

TELEGRAPH.

We learn that the work upon the line between Harrisburg and Philadelphia, for the Magnetic Telegraph, is proceeding with great regularity and dispatch; & it is added that the line will be extended from Baltimore to Harrisburg in February, so that in the course of that month, the regular communication between Washington and New York, and, perhaps, Boston, will be established. So far as we are forwarded with almost inconceivable rapidity.

Compared with the speed of its flight, The tempest itself lags behind, And the swift-winged arrows of light!

Mexico is again on the verge of a revolution.—President Herrera has not discovered strength of character sufficient to rule the republic in its present distracted state. The military faction is opposed to him. This is headed by General Paredes, and is the only organization in the country which possesses real power and influence. General Almonte is for the present leagued with Paredes, to procure the retirement of General Herrera from the Presidency.

It is most painful to state that a daughter of Lucius Shour, of Valatie, Columbia county, N. Y., while attending her room in a mill one day last week, got entangled by the hair of her head with the machinery. The entire scalp was torn from her head, and as low as the left eye-brow, which, with her scalp, came off her head in one entire piece. The scalp is now in Albany Medical College.

We have intelligence from Albany that the Antirenters, O'Conner and Van Steenburgh convicted for poisoning Sheriff Steele, have had their sentence commuted to imprisonment for life. It is stated that this result has been brought about by those who are opposed to capital punishment.

Capt. Fremont states that on reaching the highest summit of the Rocky Mountains, which is 14,500 feet above the Gulf of Mexico, he found a common humble-bee in the icy region, which he captured.—It is the highest flight of the bee ever known.

A meeting was recently held at Natchez, in the reference to the extension of the Charleston and Savannah rail road through that place, and thence up the valley of the Red River to Texas and Northern Mexico.

Last week, a boy, living in Gates county, N. C., who was amusing himself with a gun, which he supposed to be empty, placed a cap on the nipple, and turning to a young boy named Mary Overman, said playfully, "Cousin Mary, I'm going to shoot you!" being at the same moment, the contents lodged in the poor girl's face, tearing away the entire side of it. Two hours afterwards she expired, after suffering the most excruciating agony.

There is a remarkable living fifteen miles of Mobile, Ala. (Mrs. C.) who weighs four hundred and sixty pounds, being forty pounds heavier than the Hon. Dixon Lewis, member of Congress from the State 78th is the mother of several children of unusual size, enjoys good health and is good tempered.

Latest, a little girl about eight years of age, the daughter of a widow woman, residing about eight miles from Lapeer, Michigan, was frightened in such a manner that she died in about two hours after the fright. Her father, a small lad, dressed himself in a faded bear skin, and chased her as she was going to a neighboring house.

A miller, while travelling on the Lakes, was asked by a Yankee, where he lived, what his business was, & to which he replied that he lived in Toledo, and that his profession was sitting on the smooth side of poverty, and parking out the cords of alms!

A club has been invented in Northampton, Mass., which requires only to be wound up and set in motion and the butter comes out ready for use, while the good house wife employs herself with knitting or reading a newspaper.

The great foot race was won at Toronto on Monday, by Jackson, the Englishman, Giffen here alone assisted with him, but was beaten. Time, a little over 50 minutes—distance, 10 miles. That eclipses the slow train hence to Gotham.

EFFECTS OF CIGAR SMOKING.

A few days ago, Mr. Christopher Sewall, of Boston, a chemist, and a young man of good parts, died from the effects of an insatiable habit of smoking cigars. He frequently smoked thirty a day, which had brought so great a debility, that he died from the rupture of a small blood-vessel.

"Bill Bill," said an Uncle "daddy's" fairly faint.

"Is he?" well 'em "daddy" sorry, but he'll never get no again for lathering the old cat and shating her with his razor!